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Prague Conference Issues Call for Christian Peace Assembly


(Prague) - A second Christian Peace Conference, held in Prague in mid-April, has advocated a world-wide Christian Peace Assembly in early 1961.

The 100 participants in the Prague meeting, most of them from Eastern European churches, authorised contact with "existing ecumenical organisations", including the World Council of Churches and the continuation committee of the Conference of European Churches formed at Nyborg, Denmark, last January (see EPS No. 1).

Preparations for the proposed 1961 meeting will not be confined to official church channels. Contact will also be sought with Asian and African Christians, non-member churches of the WCC and with interested individuals.

"We believe that the time has come", says the conference's message, "for the churches to go beyond the present forms of cooperation and proceed together to an all-Christian peace assembly. The task of this assembly will be: to help establish a durable peace and, at the conclusion of mutual agreements, to help introduce general disarmament, set aside nuclear weapons and continually act in the service of understanding and reconciliation between nations."

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The message concludes, "We are convinced that a wisely prepared assembly will further the cause of the ecumenical movement and strengthen all the forces in the world that are striving for peace."

In another decision the Prague meeting asked Christians all over the world to hold services of repentance and intercession each year on August 6, the anniversary of the dropping of the first atom bomb on Hiroshima in 1945.

A commission of the conference agreed to supply a draft liturgy for possible use on August 6, but recognised that all churches might not be able to use the same day. The liturgy will be sent out as a suggestion and August 6 named as the central point of a period of acts of penitence.

In a speech earlier in the meeting, Professor Heinrich Vogel of Berlin said the "Hiroshima Day" observance was not only a call to remember victims of atomic war, but included all who had been tortured and murdered. He declared that the anniversary of Hiroshima had not been chosen to support any particular interpretation of history, but because Hiroshima gave a first glimpse of a new era when man could destroy himself.

The conference considered the problems posed for Christians by the cold war. In a speech on "The Cold War as a Theological Problem", Professor Joseph Hromadka of Prague denied that the conference was an "under-cover political organisation". He said that Christians on both sides of the iron curtain must take the message of the Gospel seriously. "There must be a desire not only to raise the iron curtain in the political and economic spheres, but also to raise it in the hearts of Christian men and women", Dr. Hromadka said.

Speakers at other sessions included Archpriest Constantine Ruzhitski of the Moscow Theological Academy - who said that the Russian Orthodox Church recognised the work being done by Anglican, Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in the cause of peace, Professor Helmut Gollwitzer of Bonn and Pastor Etienne Trocmé of Paris.

The largest delegation at the meeting came from East Germany (DDR), but the twenty members of the group and the delegations from Western Europe came as individuals, not as official appointees of their churches. Officially endorsed church delegations came from Czechoslovakia 19, Hungary 9, the USSR 6, and Poland 7. Other participants were from the United States 3, the United Kingdom 4, West Germany 14, Sweden 2, Rumania 2, France 1, the Netherlands 1, Austria 1, Bulgaria 1, and the Cameroons 1.

EPS, Geneva

Italian Court Upholds Protestant Marriage

(Rome) - A court in Caltanissetta, Sicily, has ruled that a Protestant pastor who is authorised by Italian law to perform marriages may do so in any part of the country without limitation.

The decision upheld the 1956 marriage of a young Pentecostal couple in the village of Resuttano which was performed by a minister from neighbouring Caltanissetta. The Caltanissetta public prosecutor had told the couple, a year after their marriage, that the ceremony had not been legal because the minister had no right to perform weddings outside his community.

The court cited a 1930 decree concerning non-Catholic marriages which says that a minister of a Protestant group recognised by the state may officiate at weddings throughout Italy.

EPS, Geneva

Controversy in Japan over Ise Shrine

(Tokyo) - Proposals to revive pre-war state protection for the shrine of Ise, Japan, have provoked strong opposition in Christian circles and elsewhere.

The shrine, a special place of worship associated with the royal family, was turned into a place of homage under the state Shinto patriotic cult in the years before World War II.

The allied occupation abolished state Shinto and reduced the status of the former national shrine to one among many Shinto religious centres. The Japanese constitution guarantees separation of state and religion.

The special committee on religious corporations within the Liberal-Democratic Party of Japan has recently discussed the possibility of restoring the Ise shrine to the national budget.

Last February the Standing Committee of the United Church (Kyodan) in Japan went on record against the new moves. "It has recently been reported that in certain circles there is a move to pass legislation placing the Ise Shrine outside the sphere of religion and placing it under the special protection of the state," said the church leaders. "Such legislation", they went on, "would violate the basic principle of the separation of politics and religion guaranteed by the constitution, and furthermore would tend to endanger freedom of religious belief. Therefore we hereby declare that we are unequivocally opposed to this plan, and we express the hope that it will be abandoned without delay".

EPS, Geneva

Christians Ask for New Approach to Moslems

(Asmara) - Church leaders from 20 Moslem countries have appealed for "an effective Christian approach to Islam" in a message drafted at an eight-day study conference held in Asmara, Eritrea, Ethiopia.

The message, drawn up by 83 delegates from 32 church bodies, asked churches in the Middle East and individual Christians to "recognise the points of involvement between Islamic and Christian doctrine" and expressed the hope for "increased opportunities of fruitful spiritual and intellectual intercourse".

The message expressed gratitude for "the measure of tolerance" churches "have enjoyed as minority communities" in Islamic countries.

At the same time, the conference suggested "formal discussions" among Middle East Christian groups on "differences in faith and order, believing that a whole Church is the only sufficient expression of a whole Christ".

EPS, Geneva

Archbishop Brilioth of Sweden Dies

(Geneva) - Archbishop Yngve Brilioth of the Church of Sweden, and a member of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, died on April 27 in Uppsala, Sweden, at the age of 67.

In Geneva, Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council, said: "Archbishop Brilioth belonged to the small group of pioneers of the ecumenical movement who in the 1920s organised the "Life and Work" and Faith and

Order" movements. He was the principal collaborator of Archbishop Nathan Söderblom in the preparation of the Life and Work Conference held at Stockholm in 1925. He participated also in the first World Conference on Faith and Order at Lausanne in 1927. From 1947 to 1957 he was chairman of the Commission on Faith and Order and presided over the Third World Conference on Faith and Order in Lund (Sweden) in 1952. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches.

"Archbishop Brilioth had begun his career as lecturer in church history at Uppsala. Then followed a professorship in Abö, Finland, and later in Lund, Sweden. In 1937 he became bishop of Växjö and in 1950 Archbishop of Uppsala. He resigned for health reasons in 1958.

"The ecumenical movement owes him a great debt of gratitude for his devotion to the cause of Christian unity and for the leadership which he gave it during the whole period of forty years since its beginnings."

Dr. Carl Lund-Quist, executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, said that "we thank God for Archbishop Brilioth's contribution to the whole ecumenical movement, which follows in the tradition of the archbishops of the Swedish church."

EPS, Geneva

Kerala Government Warns Private Schools

(Trivandrum) - The Communist government of the Indian state of Kerala has issued a reminder that it has the power to take over any private schools which close their doors in protest against the new Education Act. The government stated that it can do so "by use of force, if necessary". (See EPS No. 1)

The statement was issued in reply to a threat by private schools to close in June if the government did not withdraw the law and introduce new legislation. The regulations of the Education Act bar all "proselytism", religious instruction "without consent, or any conversion of the premises into prayer houses or places of worship". Teachers must be appointed only from district lists prepared by a government agency.

There are about 8,000 private schools in the state, many of them Christian.

EPS, Geneva

Caribbean Conference Called to Prepare Curriculum

(New York) - A conference on Christian education in the English-speaking areas of the Caribbean will be held on October 6 - 27 in Jamaica, according to plans made by a 16-member consultation which met this month at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

The conference will be one in a series sponsored by the World Council of Christian Education to aid local leaders to produce curriculum and other programme materials, closely related to the areas where they will be used. The curriculum conference will concentrate on Sunday school materials, while at the same time consideration will be given to the special needs of day schools in British Guiana where half the population of non-Christian children attend Christian day schools.

According to the preparatory consultation, the new material is necessary because of "unsuitable language and assumptions" of existing materials, the need to challenge Islam, Hinduism and other active religious sects and faiths with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to help deal with non-Christian attitudes. EPS, Geneva

British Council to Send Deputation on Central Africa

(London) - The British Council of Churches will send a deputation to the Colonial Secretary and the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations to discuss the churches' concern in the future of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The council, holding its semi-annual meeting in London on April 21-- 22, said it was "convinced of the crucial issues at stake in the development of the federation". (See EPS Nos. 12 & 13, 14).

In reporting to the meeting, the council's Department of International Affairs said that "the achievement of federation would be immensely important for the future of race relations between white and non-white peoples. It would have much to say to African nationalism... The constitutional and legal framework is not unimportant and it is both necessary and worthwhile so to fashion it that it reflects the highest intentions of the peoples concerned and achieves the benefits of federation without the dangers."

During the discussions on Nyasaland, Mr. L.B. Greaves, the Africa secretary of the British Missionary Societies, reported a recent conversation with Dr. Hastings Banda, leader of the Africa National Congress in Nyasaland, on the subject of unity in Christ between Africans and Africans-by-adoption. "The difference between you and me," Dr. Banda said, "is that you still hope and I despair."

In other action, the council received a report on "Christians and Atomic War", described as providing churchmen with "wise judgment and a right understanding of the immense issues posed to men by nuclear power".

Dr. Robert Mackie, chairman of the council's international department, in presenting the report, pointed out that the group had recognised throughout its deliberations the existence of the absolute Christian pacifist position. But, he said, the work had been chiefly concerned with how governments which could not relinquish their responsibility for defence could act in a way which would minimise the danger of using the bomb.

While some council members were of the opinion that the churches should only be concerned with disarmament, the majority of the 14-member committee preparing the report felt that Christians are also inescapably involved in questions of defence. "There is value in studying defence first," the report said, "not only because of the moral issues involved in it but also because any step towards disarmament must involve the lessening or altering of defence measures which are a primary duty of the government. Disarmament plans which do not keep this in mind are unlikely to affect national policy." The committee included Sir Kenneth Grubb and the Rev. Alan Booth of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, Rear-Admiral Sir Anthony Buzzard, and Mr. Michael Howard, lecturer in war studies at King's College, London.

Problems of unemployment, road safety and prisons were also discussed by the council, which urged the setting up of a Royal Commission to study ways to reduce the road accidents that now kill 6,000 persons a year in Britain. The council also expressed its concern over the fact that more than half a million persons are unemployed; and called on member churches to take a greater interest in conditions in local prisons.

In answer to a request from the Free Church Federal Council to plan a nationwide evangelism movement in England and Wales, the council said it did not believe the churches were really prepared for such an undertaking. First, the council said, there was need for a deeper study of the life of the churches. EPS, Geneva

Latin American Lutherans Hold Third Conference

(Buenos Aires) - "Closer contact" with Lutheran groups in Latin America, and internationally, was advocated by the Third Latin American Lutheran Conference which closed in Buenos Aires on April 17.

The conference, attended by delegates from 14 countries, stressed the need for coordinating press and publication work of the churches and lay activities and for setting up new national councils of churches. An intensified programme of international church workers' exchange for Latin American Lutherans was also urged.

Dr. Adolf Wischmann, head of the foreign office of the Evangelical Church in Germany, advocated the setting up of evangelical academies in Latin America, pointing out that more than 20 have been established in Europe since the war.

The fourth Latin American Lutheran conference will be held in 1965. A smaller meeting to deal especially with Christian literature in Spanish and Portuguese is scheduled for 1961. EPS, Geneva

Hungarian Lutheran Pastors Transferred to Provinces

(Budapest) - According to a report in "Evangelikus Elet", the organ of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, a number of Hungarian Lutheran pastors have been transferred to the provinces. Among those listed are Pastor Danhauser, a former leading Budapest pastor, Dr. Andras Keken, former assistant to Bishop Lajos Ordass, Pastor Scholz, former president of the Pastors' Association, and Pastor Istvan Botta, former press secretary.

In late February, Bishop Zoltan Kaldy of the Southern Diocese, had announced that the idea of transferring clergy to positions "where they can do no more harm to the church as a whole" was being considered. EPS, Geneva

Russian Baptist Wants Christian Peace Congress

(Moscow) - Alexander Karev, general secretary of the Baptist Union in the USSR, has advocated the holding of a world Christian peace congress.

In an article in "Noros Vremia", a Moscow trade union monthly, he draws attention to efforts by churches in the West to promote peace. Resolutions passed by the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston in 1954 and by the WCC's Central Committee at New Haven in 1957 are singled out for mention. Dr. Karev also refers to peace questions placed on the agenda of the Baptist World Alliance meeting in the USA this summer.

"The success of a Christian peace congress of this kind depends mainly on the cooperation of the WCC", Dr. Karev writes. "If the WCC takes part all the churches without exception will support it", he says. EPS, Geneva

US Conference for World Council Holds Annual Sessions

(Buck Hill Falls) - A total of one million dollars in cash and pledges has been received for the new headquarters building of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, it was reported to the annual meeting of the US Conference for the World Council, meeting on April 22 - 24 at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, a WCC president and chairman of the international committee for the building, reported that \$300,000 has come from the World Council's member churches. Gifts from foundations, individuals and other sources will make up the remainder of the \$2,500,000 goal, he told the meeting. It is expected that \$1,400,000 will come from the United States and of this, \$700,000 is assured, he said. Architects' plans for the new building will be presented to the 90-member Central Committee at its August meeting on the Greek island of Rhodes.

Looking at the problem of population growth and family planning, Dr. Richard M. Fagley told the 150 delegates that the "log-jam of public ignorance and indifference is beginning to break up and cannot long persist".

Dr. Fagley, executive secretary of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, said: "Soon people will wonder how it was possible that so many churches and governments had previously been silent on a social and moral issue of such world-wide and crucial importance." Dr. Fagley observed that a resolution passed by last year's conference urging the churches to devote more attention and study to the problem of "population explosion" had had wide repercussions.

"It is no exaggeration," he said, "to say that the US Conference initiative of a year ago, by stirring up public attention for the responsible parenthood question, helped to trigger the chain reaction of public discussion which is now beginning to take place and which will, soon or late, bring the critical issue of population policy into the forefront of governmental and intergovernmental debate."

During the sessions Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, CCIA director, called upon the Western Powers to present a "bold, over-all programme" for the solution of such outstanding issues as the future of Berlin and East Germany. "Affirmative counter-proposals must be fashioned and put forward, even though they may not win acceptance," he said. "No easy solution is to be anticipated," he continued. "The situation is highly complicated and final solutions can be hoped for only over some period of time... Neither side should look for or expect a diplomatic victory. The relative equality of the power posture, which now makes war impossible as a means of achieving political objectives, also rules out the possibility of immediate victory at the negotiating table."

A feature of the three-day sessions was a discussion on the world-wide strategy of the churches in their overseas service and mission. Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, executive secretary in the United States for the WCC, supported relations between churches in countries set against each other in political and ideological tensions in a paper presented to the meeting. He denied that Christians of the West are "contaminated" by any association with Christians from the East. At the least, he said, these contacts "build a bridge of Christian understanding which mitigates tension without surrender of Christian principles."

Other speakers at the meeting were Dr. Bryan de Kretzer of Ceylon and Archbishop Iakovos, new primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America (see page 11).

EPS, Geneva

Moves In France to Re-open Worker-Priest Experiments

(Paris) - The Catholic Action organization among French workers is sounding out the attitude of Rome toward possible restoration of the full-time priest-worker experiments that were terminated by decision of the French hierarchy in 1953 and 1954.

At a meeting of Workers' Catholic Action at Issy-les-Moulineaux from April 24 - 26, 800 delegates representing 20,000 members of the organization heard recommendations arising out of a survey of the state of the church's mission in the industrial world. The inquiry, made at the request of Cardinal Feltin of Paris, included an attempt to "define the positive conditions needed for restoring priests to active presence in the world of labour".

A speaker at the meeting, Mr. Marius Chirat, said: "We remember the priest workers' experiment and the deeply religious influence spread by their presence in the plants. We remember the witness that many of them gave within the Church and its considerable reinforcement of the apostolate of the militant laymen. We also remember the reasons and difficulties that have led the Church to suspend the experiment. Still we say again today, as loyal sons, that within the setting and the aims of the mission to the workers, priests at work on a full-time basis in large and small plants would respond to an urgent missionary call. The hierarchy must decide... Workers' Catholic Action confidently and hopefully expects that alongside its own members, in the plants where the heart of the working class beats so strongly, priests may come as a witness to the authentic reality of the Church."

Cardinal Feltin will convey the report on the industrial mission to Rome during an early visit. He will be accompanied by Canon Bonnet, the general secretary of the Mission to Workers. EPS, Geneva

In Brief

In Amsterdam on May 7 Baptists will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the baptism of John Smyth, Thomas Helwys and their English-companion refugees, who in 1609 formed the first English Baptist Church, forerunner of the present world-wide Baptist community of 23 million people.

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An ecumenical photographic exhibition featuring the work of the World Council of Churches is on view in the town of Rennes, France, from April 25 to May 5, during a commercial fair that draws 150,000 visitors. The exhibition, originally made for showing in Lyon in January 1956, has now been used in a number of French provincial cities.

* *

Bishop Elemer Györy has been elected as presiding minister of the general convent of the Hungarian Reformed Church, succeeding Bishop Albert Bereczky, who has retired.

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The Ecumenical Council in Hungary has been reconstituted with 24 members from the Reformed Church, 12 Lutherans, 2 Baptists and one Methodist. Bishop Tibor Bartha succeeds Bishop Albert Bereczky as chairman.

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A proposal to excuse objecting pastors in the Church of Sweden from performing marriage ceremonies for divorced persons has failed to pass the Swedish parliament. The outcome of the discussion in parliament was that the current regulations hold as long as the present church-state relation is maintained and as long as civil marriages are not compulsory.

* *

Mr. Harper Sibley, 74, chairman of Church World Service, relief and rehabilitation arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States since its organization in 1946, died on April 25 at his ranch home in Santa Barbara, California. Mr. Sibley, a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was also chairman of the Committee on Work with Refugees and Migrants of the World Alliance of YMCAs and was president of the US Committee for World Refugee Year.

* *

On May 3 the Roman Catholic Church and nine Protestant churches in the Netherlands will hold special services of intercessory prayer for peace and for the Foreign Ministers' Conference which will be held in Geneva later in the month. Those taking part include the Netherlands Reformed Church, Gereformeerde Kerken, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mennonite Society, Remonstrant Brotherhood, Old Catholic Church, Union of Baptist Churches, Moravian Church, Union of Free Evangelical Congregations and the Roman Catholic Church.

* *

The South African government has decided to take over the management of the hospitals for non-whites which are located in white areas, a decision affecting most of the hospitals in the Transvaal. Twenty-two mission hospitals in the Transvaal, and three hospitals with nurses' training schools belonging to the Church of Sweden in Zululand and Natal must be handed over to the government.

* *

The Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) has urged churches in Eastern Germany "not to grow embittered by the intensified ideological struggle, but courageously to confess their Christian faith". Meeting in Berlin on April 23 - 24, the council said it hoped forthcoming negotiations on Berlin and the future of Germany would succeed in restoring free communication between Germans in East and West Germany.

* *

Pastor Martin Niemöller, president of the Church of Hesse, has been re-elected chairman of the Association of Christian Churches in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft) for a two-year term. The association includes representatives of the German evangelical regional churches, the Old Catholics, the United Brethren, the Mennonites, and as observers, the Salvation Army. EPS, Geneva

A Special ReportAims of Roman Catholic Ecumenical Council Become Clearer

The month of April has brought further clarification from Vatican sources of the aims of the forthcoming General Council of the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. (See also EPS Nos. 4 and 5)

A statement in Latin appeared in the "Osservatore Romano" of April 4, when the Pope indicated that his intention was to make the forthcoming council in itself a visible expression of the unity of the Roman Church. No official pronouncement from Rome has so far supported the earlier widespread conjecture, made in many Roman Catholic and non-Roman Catholic publications, that non-Roman Catholic churches might be asked to take part in some way in the council's actual deliberations.

The Pope's statement said: "As you know, we have decided to call together an Ecumenical Council for numerous reasons, all of the greatest weight. By this council, the Holy Church of God like a city set on a mountain, will provide a wonderful spectacle of integrity, unity and concord. The council, by its very nature, will be an invitation to the separated brethren who are proud of the name of Christian, to return to the universal fold, whose guidance and custody were conferred upon the most blessed Apostle Peter by an irrevocable decision of Christ".

This clarification of the Pope's intention had been anticipated in an article by Father C.J. Dumont of Paris, a well-known French Roman Catholic ecumenist, who directs the review "Istina" and has for many years made a special study of Christian unity movements within Orthodoxy and Protestantism.

Father Dumont's article, first published in the January/February number of the information bulletin "Vers l'Unité Chrétienne" and afterwards in "Informations Catholiques Internationales", points out that the words "Ecumenical Council" do not imply negotiation with Christians of other confessions, because the use of the word "ecumenical" in this context, according to Roman Catholic canon law, refers only to a world-wide meeting of bishops of the Roman Communion. He therefore says that "to speak of invitations addressed to other confessions with a view to their taking part in the council in some way or other is, at the least, to go further than the facts as they are at present known to us".

The Dominican Roman Catholic ecumenist then outlines the difference between "Eastern" and Protestant Christians in the eyes of Rome. He shows how doctrinal "rapprochement" with the episcopal churches of the Christian East is to some extent facilitated because they possess recognised episcopal ministries and sacraments. He emphasises the bad state of relationships existing on account of the failure of two previous attempts to restore full unity - at the Council of Lyon in 1274 and the Council of Florence in 1439. Father Dumont then suggests that the forthcoming Council might begin to overcome the difficulties by exploring two possibilities: a thorough study of the authority of bishops in the church, which he says was left undeveloped by the sudden adjournment of the Vatican Council in 1870; and the creation and strengthening of institutions within the Church of Rome to carry on continuing conversations with other Christian communions. He says that such contacts could also be improved before and during the council.

Father Dumont draws attention to the importance of special study of Anglicanism. He notes that the Roman Catholic Church does not recognise Anglican orders, but stresses the fact that Anglicanism insists on an episcopal structure as a feature of any reunited church.

The World Council of Churches, according to Father Dumont, might be seen by a General Council as an institution with which the Roman Catholic Church could collaborate more fully than before, by extending the possibilities of Roman Catholic participation in Faith and Order studies and conferences. He draws attention to the existence of private contacts between non-Roman Catholics and the "Catholic Conference for Ecumenical Questions". Father Dumont goes on to suggest possible common work, where agreement exists, between the World Council of Churches and Roman Catholic groups concerned with the maintenance of peace and race and social problems. The article of Father Dumont points out that a "Council of Unity" is not necessarily a "Council of Union".

Ecumenical Patriarch Speaks

The Eastern Orthodox attitude to possible participation in a General Council became plainer in a statement made public on April 22 before the meeting of the United States Conference for the World Council of Churches by Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America. The Archbishop read a message from the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople that said: "No synod can be called ecumenical unless it is truly such, that is, pan-Christian. If the Orthodox Church is invited, it will be represented only if the entire Christian world is invited to send representatives. The minimum representation of the other churches would be their collective representation through the World Council of Churches."

Interest was added to the Patriarch's declaration by the previously made disclosure that Archbishop Iakovos had privately visited the Pope on March 18. Although nothing was said about the conversation, Archbishop Iakovos observed that this was the first visit of a Greek Orthodox bishop or archbishop to the Pope for 350 years.

The Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch has also made a statement about conditions that need to be fulfilled before Orthodox bishops could take part in an ecumenical council. "The council summoned by the Pope must take place under his leadership as primus inter pares", said the Patriarch, "and on the basis of the faith, doctrine and tradition known to the undivided Church - that is to say before Rome left this Church, when it was led by five patriarchs in Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem."

A Protestant Voice

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA and a member of the executive committee of the World Council of Churches, told a meeting of Christian journalists in early April that he hoped the effect of the General Council would be to produce "a better climate in the relations between religious groups", but he warned against exaggerated hopes for union.

Dr. Blake said that the World Council of Churches had "more experience" in working for unity than the Roman Catholic Church and said that this should be taken into account in any attempts to improve relationships in the period of preparation and afterwards.

EPS, Geneva

